

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9151

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

?AMEMBASSY AMMAN 6189

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 5732

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BEIRUT FOR VOA AND RAPA

ROME FOR VOA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - PRESS REVIEW JULY 20

1. IN WAKE OF "WAVE" OF ARAB TERRORISM, EDITORIALS CRITICIZE
GREEK AUTHORITIES FOR LETTING ARAB TERRORIST GO UNPUNISHED
DAVAR COMMENTATOR BELIEVES THAT SOVIET-AMERICAN COMMUNIQUE'S
REFERENCE TO "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS" ENCOURAGED
ARAB TERRORISTS TO RESUME HOSTILITIES. WASHINGTON CORRESPON-
DENTS REPORT ASSIST SECRETARY SISCO ASSURED AMB
DINITZ (JULY 19) THAT US WILL OPPOSE CHANGES IN BASIC UN
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RES ON MIDDLE EAST. DAVAR (ESHED) CLAIMS BRITAIN

SEEKS UN ENDORSEMENT OF ADVANCE DRAFT RESOLUTION BEING PREPARED BY UK AND EGYPT TO ELIMINATE US VETO. HAARETZ (SCHWEITZER) FORESEES NO CHANGE IN GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ISRAEL AND US SINCE COMMON INTERESTS REMAIN UNCHANGED.

2. ARAB TERRORISM: (A) HAARETZ (IND) EDITORIAL COMMENTS: "*"...THE GOVT OF GREECE IS NOT THE ONLY ONE..(THAT SETS CRIMINALS FREE)... GOVTS OF LARGER COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY SET PRECEDENTS... IF THIS BEHAVIOR IS ALLOWED TO SET ROOTS, THE TERRORISTS ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO RESUME THEIR CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES... WHICH ARE A THREAT NOT ONLY TO ISRAEL..." (B) DAVAR (HISTADRUT) EDITORIAL REMARKS: "... PERHAPS NIXON-BREZHNEV DECLARATION ON THE RECOGNITION OF THE 'LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS' WAS A SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE RESUMPTION OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES."

3. UN MID EAST DEBATE: DAVAR(ESHED) CLAIMS BRITAIN IS DRAFTING A RESOLUTION DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN OPERATIVE PART OF RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD CALL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF UN RES 242 AND PREAMBLE TO RESOLUTION THAT WOULD INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO JARRING MEMORANDUM. ESHED FURTHER SAYS BRITAIN IS ATTEMPTING TO HAVE US ENDORSE DRAFT. ESHED CONCLUDES: " ISRAEL WILL VIEW THIS..(ALSO) AS AN ATTEMPT TO CHANGE UNSC RES 242." COMMENTING IN ANOTHER ARTICLE ON EGYPT'S ATTEMPT TO "ISLAMATE" US DURING SC DEBATE, ESHED NOTES WALDHEIM IS AWARE THAT SUCH A SITUATION MIGHT WEAKEN STATUS OF UN EVEN MORE AND PREVENT US FROM EXTENDING HELP TO UN AS A MEDIATOR IN ISRAELI-ARAB DISPUTE. ESHED CONCLUDES: "EVEN IF WALDHEIM'S VISIT WILL NOT SUCCEED IN OPENING NEW CHANNELS FOR DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES, PERHAPS HE WOULD BE ABLE TO PREVENT THEIR FINAL CLOGGING."

4. US-ISRAELI RELATIONS : HAARETZ' SCHWEITZER, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM US TRIP, CONCLUDES THAT SUPERFICIAL IMPRESSION MIGHT LEAD ONE TO ANTICIPATE A DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS, BUT HIS SESSIONS WITH SENIOR US OFFICIALS ENCOUNTERED THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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VIEW. SCHWEITZER, SAYING US STRATEGY AIMS AT ENSURING SMOOTH FLOW OF OIL FROM REGION, ARGUES: "ISRAEL, AS A STRONG COUNTRY WITH SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY POWER... IS A DESIRED PARTNER FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ...(US) POLICY... ISRAEL'S INTERESTS, AS A REGIONAL POWER, CONCUR TO A LARGE EXTENT WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE US AS FAR AS ENSURING THE SMOOTH FLOW OF OIL IS CONCERNED... DESPITE THE DISAGREEMENTS OVER MILITARY

AND POLITICAL TACTICS, THE US TIES WITH ISRAEL HAVE NOT LOST THEIR POPULARITY... THE CONTINUATION OF THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND WASHINGTON REMAINS AN AMERICAN INTEREST."

5. EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN UNION: YEDIOT AHARONOT (GUINEY), COMMENTING ON REPORTS THAT EGYPTIAN ARMY FORCES WERE SENT TO ANTICIPATE "LIBYAN MARCHERS," STATES:"... THIS IS PROOF OF THE WEAKNESS OF SADAT'S REGIME. SADAT IS CONCERNED LEST THE ARRIVAL OF THE LIBYAN MASSES TO CAIRO WOULD BE OPPORTUNE FOR HIS OPPONENTS.. TO ATTEMPT TO BRING HIS DOWNFALL....."
SCOTT

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